

Around the World

with
Stan Delaplane

OSLO, NORWAY—From a friend in Europe: "People who don't ski should try Norway. They do the downhill skiing. But the big thing here is cross country—just push yourself along on the level. Anybody can learn it in half an hour."

"For people like me (no talent, no courage) it lets you get on skis instead of sitting around a ski lodge, doing the hot buttered rum course all day. You can brag without risking a broken leg. They do the cross country between villages. Prices are cheap in Norway. Plenty of places from \$5 to \$10 a day. With meals."

"Can you suggest the cheapest way to Europe for skiing? And the least expensive places?"

Cheap way to the ski country is the 21-day excursion air fare. And better if you can use the "GIT" fare. All the airlines have this system. By computer the airline gathers 15 people who all want to go to the same place at the same time. This makes it a "tour" at tour rates. But you don't have to stick together. Just go on the same plane and come back on the same plane.

For inexpensive places, I haven't heard of anything as good as Norway. (Above.) I liked Kitzbuehel in the Austrian Tyrol. A snowy, medieval walled village with horse-drawn sleighs in the streets. (Young skiers on a budget say it's too popular. For better prices try one of the villages nearby.)

You get there from Innsbruck on a little peanut white train. Skis hung on the outside. Accordion music on the inside. The train is full of skiers, and the skiers are full of grog mit der Jamaica rum. Steaming, pungent and strong enough to melt an iceberg.

The Grand Hotel is the grand place. Old world. High ceilings. At the gate, an iron militiaman leans on his musket with a fringe of snow on his moustache. At Christmas, women on the streets sell a fragrant wood-and-fir table piece stuck full of thick red candles.

Praxmair's — dark paneled wood and wonderful coffee — is the meeting place at night. The White Rose is another cheerful place. A nice thing about Austrian after-dark places in the ski country: you can sit over a 15-cent glass of wine all night and nobody pushes you around to buy more.

Praxmair's the liveliest. Kitzbuehel's legendary and horrid dragon, the Tatzelwurm, is painted on the back bar. The Tatzelwurm made the town feed him, and he ate only 100 per cent, certified, Grade A virgins. The legend says the town one day slipped him a non-virgin. Whereupon the Tatzelwurm flung down his napkin and refused to patronize the place since. (Showing how a good restaurant can be ruined by lowering its standards.)

From Kitzbuehel I went to

St. Anton. The hotels are in the grand hotel tradition. High ceilings. Doormen in General's uniforms, all of them Grand Dukes. And always an ancient retainer who can tell you how many horses pulled the sleigh when the Czar visited the hotel.

"... best place to buy ski clothes?"

The prices are very good in Austria — but that was five years ago. Prices, as you know, tend to rise when a place becomes popular.

"I would like to go to one of the ski resorts, but I don't ski. Does that leave you out of everything?"

It does get empty and dull around a ski lodge during the day. Best thing I've found is to catch a ski lift (or cable car or whatever gets you up the mountain) about 11 in the morning. Have lunch on top. In the big resorts there's always a restaurant. Some of them as posh as you'd find in the big capital cities.

There's a wide range of prices in ski country. Expensive, luxurious places if you have the money. And always plain and cheap places. Skiing pulls in a lot of young people who are on a shoestring. Their demand creates a supply.

Cast Chosen For Drama

Drama director Al Osburg has announced the selection of the cast for South High School's senior class play, to be presented Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2.

Cast for "The Lark" will include Dave Wheeler, Joel Schneider, Libby Hovey, Debbie Scott, William Walpole, Nancy Craig, Ken Wright, Lee Ellsworth, Phil Sarazen, Doug Cable, Richard Harris, Cathy Duncan, Daris Schultz, Randy Kimose, Pam Sicuro, Chris Schmillen, Corey Christopher, and George Peavy.

City's Building Activity Ranked Third in County

South Bay building activity is over \$1½ million ahead of last year, according to permit valuation figures for the first eight months of 1967 received by the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President James Scoufos said "The South Bay continues to set the pace for the entire Southern California area, reversing a trend which indicates 11 of 14 counties lagging \$289 million behind 1966 figures." Los Angeles County alone is over \$143½ million behind last year's totals.

Halloween Activities Scheduled

Halloween activities at the Lomita Recreation Center, 24428 Eshelman Ave., will begin next Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock with a costume parade.

Following the parade, the Halloween witch will be burned at the stake and a carnival will be held. Activities for children 6 years old and younger will be held in the Community Building. Children 7 years of age and older will meet in the gym-

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